GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2562
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
OBJECTIONABLE REMARKS ON HINDU GOD GODDESSES IN SYLLABUS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether controversial remarks on Lord Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman have been included in the concurrent syllabus of B.A. (History) Hons. of Delhi University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for inclusion of the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to delete the said remarks from the course?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, some organizations have objected to the inclusion of an essay titled `Three Hundred Ramayans: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation' by late Shri A.K. Ramajunan in the suggested readings for the concurrent course on `Culture in India: Ancient' in the B.A. (Honours) programme of the University alleging that it contained derogatory references to the Hindu gods and goddesses. In view of the reservations expressed, the University has constituted a Committee of eminent scholars, consisting of Prof. B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Prof. R. N. Mishra, Prof. M.G.S. Narayanan, Prof. Kapila Vatsyayan and Prof. M.K. Dhawalikar, to review the matter and give their views/ opinion on it.